



Brussels, 24.7.2020
C(2020) 9036 final

DECISION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

**on Former Commissioner Christos Stylianides' post term of office professional activity
as member of the Advisory Board of the Faculty of Economics and Management of the
University of Cyprus**

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on European Union,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Atomic Energy Community,

Having regard to the Commission Decision of 31 January 2018 (C(2018) 700 final) on a Code of Conduct for the Members of the European Commission, and in particular Article 11(3) thereof,

Whereas:

- 1) According to Article 245(2) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, the Members of the Commission, when entering upon their duties, shall give a solemn undertaking that, both during and after their term of office, they will respect the obligations arising therefrom and, in particular, their duty to behave with integrity and discretion as regards the acceptance, after they have ceased to hold office, of certain appointments or benefits.
- 2) Article 339 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union provides that the Members of the institutions of the Union shall be required, even after their duties have ceased, not to disclose information of any kind covered by the obligation of professional secrecy, in particular information about undertakings, their business relations or their cost components.
- 3) Article 11 of the Code of Conduct for the Members of the European Commission establishes a specific procedure for the assessment of planned professional activities which the Members or former Members of the Commission intend to take up after they have ceased to hold office. The Commission shall examine the information provided in order to determine whether the nature of the planned activity is compatible with Article 245 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. If the planned activity is related to the portfolio of the Member or former Member, the Commission shall decide only after having consulted the Independent Ethical Committee unless the planned activity falls within the exceptions foreseen in paragraph 3, second subparagraph, lit. (a) to (f).
- 4) By letter of 29 May 2020, Former Commissioner Christos Stylianides informed the Commission about his decision, subject to the Commission's authorisation, to accept a non-remunerated function as member of the Advisory Council of the Faculty of Economics and Management of the University of Cyprus. Mr Stylianides underlined his awareness of the Code of Conduct for the Members of the Commission and committed to refrain from lobbying with the European Commission for the University of Cyprus. His function will involve his participation in one or two meetings of the Advisory Council per year, either at the University premises or via teleconference.
- 5) The University of Cyprus is a public corporate body established in 1989. It is tasked with the advancement of science, knowledge, learning and education by teaching and research. The University of Cyprus has been a regular recipient of funding from the EU budget under several headings, essentially through Commission departments which were not placed under Commissioner Stylianides' political authority. However,

the University of Cyprus has also received European funding through the Commission's Directorate-General for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection, previously under Former Commissioner Stylianides' political responsibility (911.512 € in 2015, 511.735 € in 2017 and 338.672 € in 2018).

- 6) The Faculty of Economics and Management is one of the first schools of the University of Cyprus and began operations in 1992. The Faculty's declared objectives are to diffuse knowledge, introduce students in critical thinking, and enhance students' expertise and competencies. It also seeks to enhance the moral, right behaviour and important values. It provides students with the essential tools that will help them face the challenges of today. The School also offers its students suitable academic qualifications that will allow them to achieve a successful career, either in the private or in the public sector. It actively serves more than 1300 students, who are currently enrolled in its undergraduate and graduate programmes. The Faculty comprises the Department of Business and Public Administration, the Department of Accounting and Finance and the Department of Economics. It also maintains two research units, the Economics Research Centre and the Centre for Banking and Financial Research. The School offers a number of undergraduate and postgraduate studies to prospective students.
- 7) The Council of the Faculty of Economics and Management acts as an advisory body for the Faculty on strategic issues related to the achievement of the Faculty's mission and objectives and in order to optimise the quality of the learning experience.
- 8) Mr Stylianides' responsibilities will not include a direct role in the management of the Faculty of Economics and Management, nor in the management of the University of Cyprus. Nonetheless, it is appropriate to set the same restriction as regards lobbying as in previous decisions regarding other Former Commissioner's post term of office professional activities in the management of academic institutions, in order to rule out any possible contact concerning future decisions of the Commission on the allocation of funds.
- 9) Without prejudice to the restriction stated above, the envisaged activity does not present any risk of incompatibility with Former Commissioner Stylianides's former role as Member of the Commission or with the interests of the institution, provided that Mr Stylianides abides by the relevant provisions of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, notably Article 339, and of the Code of Conduct for the Members of the Commission, namely Article 11(1), in conjunction with Article 5, and Article 11(4) as concerns the protection of confidentiality of sensitive information, the protection of collegiality and discretion and the prohibition of lobbying during a period of two years after his term of office.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

Commissioner Christos Stylianides' envisaged activity as member of the Advisory Council of the Faculty of Economics and Management of the University of Cyprus is compatible with

Article 245(2) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, subject to the following conditions and restrictions :

- In accordance with Article 11(4) of the Code of Conduct for the Members of the Commission, during a period of two years following his term of office, Former Commissioner Stylianides shall refrain from lobbying the Members of the Commission or their staff on behalf of the University of Cyprus, on matters for which he was responsible within his portfolio, in particular as concerns future decisions of the Commission on the allocation of funds.
- In accordance with Article 339 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, Former Commissioner Stylianides shall refrain from participating in any activity or decision-making procedure within the University of Cyprus which might involve using information of the kind covered by the obligation of professional secrecy regarding, in particular, undertakings, their business relations or their cost components.
- In line with Article 11(1), in conjunction with Article 5, of the Code of Conduct for the Members of the Commission, Former Commissioner Stylianides remains bound by the duties of collegiality and discretion, with respect to the Commission's decisions and activities during his term of office.

Done at Brussels, on 24 July 2020

The President
Ursula von der Leyen